

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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MONTHLY REPORT

for

May, 1918.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

OFFICE OF SUPERVISOR

Yellowstone Park, Wyo., _____, 191__

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Superintendent.

June 10, 1918.

July 10

The Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to submit my report of conditions
in the park for the month of May, 1918.

GENERAL STATEMENT:

The Yellowstone National Park was set aside by
Act of Congress March 1, 1872, (Secs. 2474 and 2475, R. S.,
17 Stat., 32) as a pleasuring-ground for the benefit and
enjoyment of the people, and placed under the exclusive con-
trol of the Secretary of the Interior, who was authorized
to make such rules and regulations as he deems necessary for
the care and management of the park. It is situated prin-
cipally in northwestern Wyoming, but laps over a little more
than two miles into Montana on the north, and almost two
miles into Montana and Idaho on the west. Its dimensions
are about 62 miles north and south, and about 54 miles east
and west, giving an area of about 3,348 square miles, or
2,142,720 acres. Its altitude is 6,000 to 11,000 feet.

The park was governed by civilian superintendents,
assisted by a few scouts, from the time it was set aside
until August 10, 1886, when, under authority contained in
the Sundry Civil Bill, approved March 3, 1883, at the re-
quest of the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of
War detailed troops of United States Cavalry to protect it,
the commanding officer acting as park superintendent under
the direct orders of the Secretary of the Interior. On
October 16, 1916, by mutual agreement of the heads of the
two Departments, the troops were withdrawn from the park and
a civilian superintendent, with a corps of 25 rangers for
patrol and protection work, and a few civilian employees
necessary for other duties, were designated by the Secretary

of the Interior to replace them. The Sundry Civil Bill, approved June 12, 1917, (Public No. 21, 65th Congress) contained a clause which made it necessary for the troops to be returned to the park for the purpose of patrolling it, and they were returned on June 26, 1917, relieving the park superintendent of so much of the duties as pertained to "protection."

The maintenance and construction of roads, bridges, and improvements in Yellowstone Park, is carried on by special appropriation under the War Department, the work being locally in charge of an officer of the U. S. Engineer Department, known as the District Engineer Officer, who reports directly to the Chief of Engineers, although his orders direct him to report to the Park Superintendent for duty. 278.8 miles of main road and 24.75 miles of secondary road are located in the park, and 106.5 miles of main road are maintained by the same department in the forest reserves adjoining the park on the south and east. Major George E. Verrill, Engineers, U. S. Reserves, is at the present time in charge of improvement work in the park, as District Engineer. A copy of his report for the month of May will be forwarded when received.

The local office of the U. S. Weather Bureau, Department of Agriculture, is in charge of Mr. G. E. Lawton, Observer.

Park Headquarters for all departments and most of the concessioners, is located at Mammoth Hot Springs. A telephone system connects Headquarters with the sub-stations. A hydro-electric power plant furnishes the light for the buildings and grounds at Headquarters. Water, electric current, and telephone service are furnished other departments of the Government in the park by the National Park Service, without charge. During May the hydro-electric power plant was run daily from 4.00 PM until 8.00 AM, and was continued during the day when any necessity existed.

Funds for purposes of administration of the park, and for the care and maintenance of buffalo and other animals, are obtained from special appropriations by Congress, and from revenues derived from various sources in the park.

June
CONDITIONS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY.

The mean temperature for May was 42.5, which was 4.9 below normal, though the extreme temperatures were not unusual. Eight inches of snow fell, but it melted soon after falling, and not more than an inch was on the ground at any one time. Growing conditions for vegetation were excellent, and all wild animals had the best of grazing. Snow in the upper park melted to such an extent that the roads were open at the end of May to Norris, Upper Basin, Yellowstone, and the west side of the park, and to Soda Butte and Cooke City, north-east from Mammoth. Golden Gate was opened by employees of the Yellowstone Park Transportation Company on May 1st.

There was also employed one temporary 1st C. Fr. fr. 6/11 to 6/20 + 2 w Scout Fr. 6/24-6/30 also C - 2 6/28-6/30.

EMPLOYEES.

A total of ¹⁹21 permanent and ¹1 temporary employees were carried on the pay roll during the month of May, namely: one chief clerk, (Acting Superintendent) one clerk, one chief scout, eight scouts, one buffalo keeper, one assistant buffalo keeper, one buffalo herder, two telephone switchboard operators, one lineman, one electrician, one assistant electrician, one laborer, one plumber, and one temporary assistant electrician.

Scouts Band + Sawney were dropped at the end of May and employed as truck drivers during June. They were again taken up as scouts July 1st.

In addition to the above one small crew was engaged during the month in constructing a firelane from Gardiner, Montana, to Slough Creek, up the north bank of the Yellowstone River, and another crew was engaged in cutting out that part of the north boundary line of the park from Gardiner east, and marking the line in the open by monuments.

Revis

Crew furnished on June 17? 2d crew worked time from Spokhok later

One man was employed as an irrigator by the day at the buffalo farm, repairing ditches and assisting with general farm work.

I am irrigator was employed by the day at garden part of the time watering the alfalfa field.

One teamster with a heavy 4-horse team was employed throughout the month plowing and cultivating the 45-1/2-acre alfalfa field near Gardiner, Montana, and another man was employed as a teamster for seven days driving one of our mule teams to seed this field. The heaviest part of the plowing was done by a Holte Caterpillar tractor, loaned by the District Engineer Officer with its crew of two men for the purpose. This machine was in use 12-3/4 days, plowing in that time 40 acres. It pulled a 4-bottom gang plow and hitched behind that a heavy 7-foot tandem disc harrow, doing the work of at least 20 extra heavy draft horses.

Learn out

✓ A 4-horse team with driver were employed on Lamar River at the buffalo farm after May 17th, seeding meadow land.

4 another heavy y-h-h = 2000 lbs. was engaged here for - do building an

Distribution - regular employees: Chief Scout Mc Bride spent most of his time during the month in laying out the firelane being built north of the Yellowstone River between Gardiner and Slough Creek, and in keeping the crew cutting out the north line on the right track. Scout Little patrolled to Lamar River, to Yellowstone, Montana, and points west from Mammoth Hot Springs in the vicinity of Electric Peak. Scout Brooks patrolled the southern and southwestern corners of the park. Scout Lacombe was on duty in the Tower Falls district during the month. Scout Dewing was engaged all the month in working with Donald Stevenson, the predatory animal hunter of the U. S. Biological Survey, hunting predatory animals in the vicinity of the buffalo farm, Lamar River, and Tower Falls. Scouts Pound, Lawson, Trischman, were on duty most of the month at, and in the vicinity of, headquarters, assisting in policing grounds, caring for property and horses belonging to the Department, repairing and running motor trucks when needed for hauling, unloading checking up and storing the three new motor trucks, which arrived on May 26th, etc. These men rebuilt about two miles of wire fence, inclosing a field at Mammoth for use of such animals as are required for daily use here. Scout Smith patrolled Blacktail Deer Creek and Lower Yellowstone country May 1st to 18th, after which date he was stationed on Blacktail Deer Creek looking after the Interior Department horses, which were turned out to grass to save expensive forage.

✓ The buffalo keeper, his assistant and the herder, were on duty at the buffalo farm, caring for the tame buffalo herd, assisting with seeding meadow land, and doing general police and other work incident to the spring months.

✓ Other employees were on duty at Headquarters, maintaining and operating telephone lines, water system, and power plant, buildings, etc.

? 420 ✓ 360 telephone poles were out and delivered at the roadside by contract, and the lineman was charged with supervising and inspecting this work in addition to his other duties.

✓ Leaves of absence: The following leaves of absence were granted during the month;

✓ Chester A. Lindsley, chief clerk, from noon, 17th, to noon, 18th; 1 day.

✓ Henry O. D'Ewart, laborer, from noon, 18th, to noon, 21st; from noon, 29th, to and including 31st; total 3½ days.

✓ Harold H. Jones, plumber, from noon, 25th, to noon, 28th; 2 days.

✓ Appointments: Walter P. Hoppe was appointed buffalo herder at \$900 per annum, effective May 1, 1918.

✓ Resignations: Henry O. D'Ewart, laborer, \$900 per annum, submitted his resignation to become effective at the close of May 31, 1918.

✓ Vacancies: At the close of May 31st there were the following vacancies: 1 assistant electrician at \$1200 per annum; 1 lineman at \$900 per annum; and 1 clerk at \$1200 per annum.

✓ During the month employees of this office purchased War Saving and Thrift Stamps to the amount of \$147.60.

✓ The week ending May 27th, known as "Red Cross Week", was observed. Park employees and other residents of Mammoth, - 90 persons in all - subscribed a total of \$878.00 to the Second Red Cross War Campaign Fund during that week.

ANIMALS, DOMESTIC.

✓ On May 19th all surplus horses, not needed for immediate use, were turned out to grass on Blacktail Deer Creek. Scout Smith was with them to see that they did not stray, until they had become accustomed to the range, and a scout visits the herd occasionally to see that they are all right. The fence around an old pasture at Mammoth was repaired by the scouts, for use of such animals as are kept up for general use, and they are grazed most of the time, saving a large quantity of hay which is now expensive and scarce.

*Surplus horses
animals were
kept on grass
on Buffalo
Creek lands
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GRAZING IN THE PARK.

✓ *Out*
Grazing was most excellent. The only domestic animals grazed were the horses of this Department, and a few hired as pack animals, or for construction work by the Engineer Department, and four draft horses in use by the Camping Company at their Mammoth Camp.

FIRES.

✓ *Same*
No forest fires occurred in the park during May.

FISH.

✓ *Out*
Fishing was good in most streams in the northern part of the park, and was indulged in to a considerable extent by residents of the park and vicinity.

IMPROVEMENTS.

✓
Several employees of the Transportation Company were present in the park, engaged in preparing for the opening of the tourist season, and making some minor improvements to buildings. The work of remodeling an old building formerly used as a granary into a mess house for employees was completed. A little work was done by these employees shoveling snow on the Mammoth-Morris road before it was opened for travel.

✓
A few employees of the Hotel Company were at work at Mammoth during the month.

✓
The Camping Company began getting the Mammoth Camp in readiness for the tourist season, and had a few employees most of the month.

✓
Considerable work was done by the Engineer Department on the roads in the vicinity of Mammoth.

✓
One man was employed with a 4-horse team beginning May 18th harrowing the land plowed last summer at the buffalo farm, preparing the soil for seeding, which is being done this month.

✓ The 45¹/₂-acre alfalfa field at Gardiner was plowed up and seeded to oats to be cut for hay for wild animals. Six acres of this was plowed with a heavy 4-horse team hired with driver for the purpose, and the balance was plowed by a 75-horsepower "Holte" caterpillar tractor, hired with crew of two men from the U. S. Engineer Office. Only the actual cost of operation plus a reasonable amount of wear and tear of the machine was charged for this work, and as it did the work much faster than it could have been done with teams, it enabled us to get the crop in early enough to insure a fair crop of hay. The cost was also considerably less than it would have been with teams.

✓ The crew building a firelane north of the Yellowstone River, in an easterly direction from Gardiner, made good progress. About 14 miles had been completed at the end of May, but the most expensive part, through heavy slide rock, was included in the part finished. This work will be completed before the end of the present month, when a complete report will be submitted.

✓ The crew cutting out the north line from Gardiner east, completed the work to the vicinity of Hellroaring Creek, except for three miles on top of the mountain, which had to be left for later work on account of present deep snow. About ten miles were completed.

✓ Mr. R. I. McKay, of Livingston, Montana, had a reconnaissance made of a route for a new road which he is authorized to build between Gardiner and Cooke City, through the park, with an idea of later making a survey of the same.

MONIES TRANSMITTED.

✓ Report of monies collected, transmitted, due, etc., is inclosed on the regular blank form.

NATURAL PHENOMENA.

✓ No particular changes were noted in the natural phenomena of the park from April.

VISITORS.

✓ Nineteen visitors entered the park from the northern entrance, coming as far as Mammoth Hot Springs. None were recorded from the other entrances.

✓ Special visitors were recorded as follows:

✓ Mr. D. L. Reaburn, Superintendent of Mr. Rainier National Park, was here May 6th to 8th, looking over the "Gardiner Slide" and making a special report on this difficult problem.

✓ Mr. C. A. Hamilton, who has a store concession at Upper Basin, arrived on May 6th to make preparations for his summer business.

✓ Mrs. A. K. Pryor, who has a concession for a curio store at Mammoth, returned from spending the winter in California on May 9th.

✓ Dr. H. H. Cohencour, Inspector in Charge of the Bismarck office of the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry, was here May 16th to 17th.

✓ Messrs. Petter, Adams, Riley, and Shaw, of the U. S. Forest Service, visited Mammoth on May 27th and 28th, in connection with the problem of future care of the elk herds, to which they are giving special attention.

✓ Mrs. Robt. C. Morris visited Mammoth on May 29th and 30th, en route to her summer home on Slough Creek just outside the northern boundary line of the park. She is giving us some assistance in connection with marking that portion of the north line of the park situated in the vicinity of Slough Creek.

WILD ANIMALS.

All reports indicate that wild animals seen are in splendid condition. There is an abundance of grass for elk, deer, antelope, sheep and all herbivorous animals. While they have suffered somewhat from ravages of wolves and coyotes, reports indicate that conditions in this respect have improved since April.

May

The elk are gradually working back towards the summer range, but are remaining on low ground longer than usual. Scout Dewing estimates about 8,000 in the country which was patrolled by him during the month, from Blacktail to Soda Butte. Scout Lacombe, who was at Tower Falls Station, reported finding 82 dead elk during the month, most of which he thought had been killed by wolves, but towards the end of the month the wolves seemed to leave the Specimen Ridge district, and have not been much in evidence since.)

Twelve coyotes and seven wolves were killed during the month.

PROTECTION AND CARE OF GAME.

No cases of poaching or violation of law were reported.

The commanding officer of troops was obliged to have the soldiers stationed at outposts come in to the post at different times during the month for target practice, and in some cases they have not yet been sent back, but arrangements are being made to do so soon. The property at the stations mostly belongs to this Department, and I regret to say that in many cases it has not been safe-guarded and I expect to find much of it short when the stations are re-garrisoned. I have experienced much difficulty in getting memorandum receipts for property furnished for these stations.

PROPOSED WORK.

Completion of the locational and pictorial index of structures and improvements in the park, as suggested by your letter of June 15, 1917, provided sufficient additional clerical assistance is procured.

Special care of wild and domestic animals, and destruction of wolves and coyotes.

Repair and maintenance of telephone lines, and construction of the new line between Mammoth and Soda Butte. There is a little maintenance work to be done on park lines before the opening of the season, such as removing fallen timber, tightening up the line in places where trees have fallen across it, making proper connections at stations which have been abandoned during the winter, etc. Attempts to get

✓ linemen for this work have not been successful thus far. Our efforts to get a lineman at \$900 per annum to fill a vacancy has also failed to date, and there is still a vacancy. I do not believe it can be filled at less than \$1200 per annum.

✓ Repair and maintenance of water system and hydro-electric power plant. The power plant roof has been repaired since June 1st, and the work of painting the floor at the power plant, and painting the pipe line, will be done as soon as practicable.

✓ Finishing the construction of the firelane north of Yellowstone River.

✓ Cutting out and marking portions of the north, east, and west boundaries of the park, if men can be procured for the work. Two crews are already engaged on this work.

✓ Cultivation of land at the buffalo farm on Lamar River to provide hay for buffalo and wild animals. One 4-horse team and driver are now engaged there in harrowing and sowing to oats for hay, the land plowed last fall. Irrigating same, and irrigating the old meadows at the buffalo farm, as well as the oat crop sowed on the alfalfa field at Gardiner.

✓ Construction of a cabin at the Gallatin entrance to the park, including a small log barn and entrance gateway. A crew of men assisted by a small detachment of enlisted men are already at work getting out the logs.

✓ Purchase and installation of signs for all parts of the park.

✓ Employment of two men with light truck in doing sanitary work in the park.

✓ Taking samples of water used for drinking and culinary purposes in the park, for test as to purity by the Public Health Service. The Laboratory Car "Hamilton" in charge of Lieut. Judson, arrived at Gardiner for this purpose on June 8th.

✓ Tuberculin test of milch cows used by hotels and camps in the park, by an inspector of the U. S. Bureau of

Animal Industry, as authorized by you.

Three new motor trucks, purchased by Civil Engineer G. E. Goodwin, were received during the month, inspected, run from the depot at Gardiner to Mammoth and stored. The 1-ton STUDEBAKER has been put into commission and will be used for sanitary work, leaving the old $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton "REO" truck for use of the lineman in repairing telephone lines.

In accordance with the proclamation by the President, May 30th was duly observed in the Park as a day of public humiliation, prayer, and fasting. Appropriate ceremonies were held in the post chapel at 11.00 AM and 8.00 PM, and all work, except necessary labor, was suspended for the day.

Very respectfully,

CHESTER A. LINDLEY

Acting Superintendent.

Inclosures: